



Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes

August 28, 2013

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake County Planning and Community Development Office conference room in Painesville, Ohio. He introduced and welcomed Mr. Mark Rantala of the Lake County, Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Advay, Buescher, Bruckman (alt for Martin), Cain, Cicero, Gilmer, Reichard, Rising, Scruggs (alt. for Cardina), Urbanski, Welch, and Mmes. Buccier (alt for Brennan), Neale and Taylor. Staff present: Mr. Boyd and Ms. Myers.

MINUTES

Mr. Scruggs moved to approve the February 27, 2013 minutes as submitted and Mr. Welch seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

Support Letters & Resolutions

The regulatory side of moving the Coastal Development Plan forward and working with existing projects in some of communities has been challenged in the past year. At the last meeting, Mr. Boyd solicited a template of letters of support expressing our concerns with the Army Corps in moving these projects forward. He received one from most every coastal community, which he appreciated. These letters were sent to Congressman Joyce's office in the hope of getting an audience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Buffalo District and were successful in doing that.

Corps Regulation Clarification Meeting

A meeting was held in Erie, Pa with the Corps at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Messrs. Advay, Allen, Boyd, Anderson (Madison Twp.), Rantala, and representatives from the offices of Congressmen Joyce, Brown and Portman were at the meeting. Mr. Boyd had set a goal to see how we could help one another to move forward and get a better understanding of their requirements for dredging and monitoring and the science behind it. Seven or eight officials came from the Corps (Chief of Regulatory, a couple engineers, etc.).

They wanted to start the meeting with a Lakefront 101 discussion, but we quickly said we understood the 101 and have communities that have either already invested in the lakefront or are

considering doing so. Mr. Boyd left the meeting with a lack of understanding on the whys and justifications as to some of the parameters that have been put forth on our local communities, notably on the sand bypassing, dredging requirements, the frequency, the amount of sand. They discussed all the current projects in Lake County, excluding the one project that may or may not be under litigation. The one ask we had of the Corps was for them to come and see some of the sites in Lake County.

When the Corps was asked if there was a variance to these procedures within the Corps and if the mandates being put on Madison Township were being effective, we received no clear answer. Madison Township is going to work with Mr. Matricardi to issue a modification of their permit. Right now, they feel physically moving sand a couple hundred yards twice a year at a cost of \$15,000 with no data or science behind the request to show an effective use has no purpose. The Township has not had any complaints down drift of the Park. They are basically on observation, which is ten years. The water levels are up and there is more sand to the east and to the west of us. There is no need shown for dredging.

At the regulatory meeting, Mr. Advay asked if they could take sand from Stanton Park to fulfill the needs at Madison Township Park and they would not let them do it. He informed them they had allowed Dr. Barr, the neighbor to the West of Stanton Park to put his sand in at Madison Township Park. Buffalo was caught by surprise when they heard that. No one knew who made that decision. Mr. Advay felt that they really made headway at this meeting. He intends to keep Mr. Matricardi in the loop because of his good relationship with ODNR and the Army Corps.

Mr. Boyd said they asked the water depth where the sand could be placed to know that it will get to where it is needed to be or are we dumping sand in places where it just goes straight down? There were not a lot of baseline indicators where we could judge the effectiveness of some of these moves. They seem to make this decision as an art and not a science, but it he thought it should be made more to a science when you are asking publicly funded entities to spend or submit a number of dollars.

Last Monday, three of the Corps officials, including the Chief of Regulatory and two other staff members, came out to Lake County. Because of the Corps internal cuts, they only had a couple hours so we went to Madison & Perry Township Parks, Stanton Park and Fairport Harbor. The focus was on Madison Township Park because they are currently going into the whys and ifs of dredging, sand monitoring, and bypassing. Madison Township had spent around \$10,000 to \$12,000 on surveys and the physical movement of the sand this summer. When we went to Fairport, we took along the sketches from the Coastal Plan and conversed about where the starting points in discussions would be if those items in the Plan were to be done there, even though they are not ready to pursue these yet. The Corps representatives said when we were ready to talk about them, there would be preplanning issues to discuss.

The group went to Stanton Park in Madison to show them the bluff situation and the drainage issues, etc. This Park has a public/private partnership that the Township established with a private operator who is willing to substantially invest in it if the public sector protects the Lake, which is in the Plan. Our point to the Corps was that consistency and guidance on these rules is needed so when the public sector goes to design it, we will know what is to be done. The private operator clearly indicated that his development plans on that particular facility is completely contingent upon the public sector protecting the shoreline.

The one component heard in Erie that was new to us was that they had passed a resolution that it was no longer a requirement to have money set aside to take out new breakwaters if they did not work. Mr. Boyd wasn't sure if they ever had that on paper. He asked to be provided the Federal law that mandated Madison Twp. to establish an escrow account. They could not even answer when that rule came into effect.

In Perry Twp., they are going back to the perpendicular jetty philosophy, which will still trap sand. They will only have to do voluntary monitoring by sending a staff member down once a year to make sure everything is working the way he thinks it should and call it a day and they will only need to pre-fill 450 cubic yards and they are done. They are still trapping sand, yet have a completely different guideline compared to what Madison is working under. At this, the third site, there was an inconsistency.

Other comments made at the meeting on this subject were:

- These are very important fixed investments that cities up and down the coastline are making. Why can't there be a similar sort of evaluation applied to recreational destination points? These are also fixed investments in a sense now even though they are more subject to the whims of nature.
- Mr. Urbanski stated it is worth noting that there is a new administration in the ODNR office that may have something to do with the thawing out as far as regulatory goes. It is possible. He is looking at our regulations, looking at the regulatory side, and is handcuffed a little bit by the ORC and administrative code/language right now, but he is looking at what he can do. He is a lot more landowner friendly. He comes from the engineering world and is not afraid to make some decisions. Mr. Boyd commented that Perry Township's permit went under him but Madison's went under the previous Director.
- Mr. Advey reported that a Congressman who sits on a committee dealing with the Corps had his field representative there and he is planning to stay in touch with him. He met him at an Ohio Twp. Assn. function in Columbus a couple weeks ago where he asked if any one was having issues with Corps, to please let him know. Mr. Advey told him about the Township Park situation and hoped he would be an asset in the future. Likewise, Jason said, at Monday's field trip, Representative Joyce's team was there and representatives from Congressmen Brown and Portman. He said this Committee is again at a very professional working level.
- Mark Rantala stated the big plus of have the congressional delegations there and the new one from Ashtabula is that they have certainly helped to get the regulatory agencies' attention. All the people at the meetings seemed very interested in what was trying to be accomplished.
- He asked them if they had any jurisdiction on the sheet pile walls in the riverfront in Fairport. The Corps said they did not know and would have to look into that.

Mr. Boyd said it seems they made some headway and he will be working with the Township to get the modification request in hopes that the regulatory agency grants it. This would help our other communities when they are ready. It has been a real challenge just trying to get them to the table. A lot of things had been asked of the Corps, and we will see if, when and how long it takes to get answers back.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Updates:

Fairport Harbor Port Authority – Michael Scruggs – They dredged this year to about nine feet. Where the river comes out, some of the water goes to the east inside the harbor and some goes outside the wall to the east that creates a large eddy off the breakwall there. The eddy circles sand around in front of the Port facility. When they brought the barge in to do the dredging, the barge could not get to them because of the sand bar that had been created by that eddy. They actually had to do some dredging to get the equipment into the inner harbor to dredge the boat ramps. The sand was coming out from the River, not from the land and was deposited in the harbor. Mr. Boyd stated that there seemed to be a lot more sand and stone stockpiling on the Fairport Harbor side this year. Mr. Scruggs said the stone docks have had noticeably more material over the last several years. The Port Authority does not own that land so he does not have statistics on tonnage.

Mr. Scruggs stated that Painesville Twp. has lost their wall. Ironically, Mr. Urbanski said they are meeting with John Matricardi tomorrow to talk about the wall.

Eastlake Port Authority – Mark Cain – Everything is on hold until after the elections. One smaller problem is by the Chagrin Harbor Beach area, where there has been some serious erosion on the wall put in by the Army Corps. These people are coming to the Port Authority and asking for help. He is hoping to get concrete to put down, but no one seems to like that solution. About three years ago, the Army Corps said they would not do anything major and suggested putting concrete on the footprint on the dike. These people are looking for some sort of immediate help or direction so they can keep from losing too much more land there. It is eroding away quickly. They are trying to get some answers.

Mr. Boyd asked if he would like him to reach out to the people in Erie now, to let him know. Mr. Cain thought that would be very helpful.

City of Mentor – Abe Bruckman – There is still a lot of concern about what is happening east of the channel where the beach is eroding considerably. They have not gotten a lot of traction with that of late.

Mr. Boyd asked if there was still a potential of a breach. Mr. Bruckman said they are keeping an eye on that because they can see how much land is being eroded by the number of trees that have dropped down to the Lake. In the area where Mr. Nozik had tried to create a new channel, there is the potential for the erosion to meet that ditch line and create a breach. They are very anxious to try to find a way to resolve that issue.

Most recently, their efforts have been diverted by a couple of other projects. They, ODNR and Lake Metropark, threw a big beach party at Headlands Beach. This was done in part because they wanted larger recognition of Headlands Park as a regional destination. It was a rainy day so the attendance was lower than anticipated, but still had a good amount of people. They will try again next year. They received two grants to help do this.

They are just finishing up final details on a grant proposal to get funds to do some planning to create a network of bike trails with Headlands as the focus. All the communities in central Lake County would benefit from that.

North Perry Village – Mark Cicero, Jr. - He heard that the Park is getting a ton of usage. Everything he had heard today was encouraging to them. They sent a survey to the residents to see if they were going to let the residents have passes so they can give them to their guests without them having to be present. The rule states that a resident has to be with their guests. The results should be available at the next Council meeting.

Their monitoring is going to be expiring soon. It will be five years.

North Perry Village – Lorrie Taylor - Nothing to add.

Willowick Planning – Mark Rising - The Planning Commission is continuing to work on putting together an Architectural Review Board primarily to be able to have a say about what the development along the Lake, when it comes, would look like. The City is struggling with how to keep residents' basements dry. He had heard 6,000 homes from one source, 5,000 from another and Council said 1,800 homes. Mr. Rising said there is no money for repairs.

Lake County Port & Economic Development Authority – Mark Rantala - Upon his arrival, the Port Board put on his charge of things to do to see what the Port can do to assist getting parts of the Coastal Plan implemented. He will reach out and do what he can, such as more detailed planning for the next step of when construction will occur or it might be getting easements. They are looking to see how they can help. Their name has changed from the Lake County Port Authority to let people know they are involved in more than port activities, beyond issuing bonds and 504's. They are working on a major redo of their website where they hope to link to all the partners in Lake County and market Lake County together as a site attraction for business. They are working a lot on the economic development front, but they will be involved in trying to get the Coastal Plan implemented. Please contact us with any thoughts, suggestions or requests of something we can help do.

Mr. Boyd stated that Mr. Rantala brings a real estate background to the Port that could help with those landside developments as to what is feasible, demographics, rooftops, etc. His mother was born and raised in Fairport Harbor. Much of his youth was spent on the beach in Fairport Harbor visiting his grandparents.

On September 12, 2013 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Fairport will be promoting its commercial real estate available. Mr. Rantala will be speaking at it. The community will be doing an open house of available commercial property and he will talk to the group giving them advice on how the building owners might get some spaces leased and start building momentum on the commercial front there. If you open a popcorn stand before next year, it could lead to a restaurant, etc. He wants to give ideas on little steps so when bigger things happen, there will be a base to support it.

Madison Township – Larry Advey - They started their project yesterday at Madison Township Park using CDBG funds for the lower level of handicap accessible parking at the beach level. They will plow it up and put in a boardwalk similar to Fairport Harbor and then put the steps back in there.

An action item for the Army Corps and ODNR concerning Stanton Park is a preliminary long-range meeting about what is being planned there. The Township wants to meet, sit down and talk to them

first in case changes need to be made and to get some input from them about the direction they are looking at going.

Lake County Development Council/ N. Perry Village – Larry Reichard - There is nothing to report.

Lake County Commissioners – Dave Gilmer - The Lake County Development Council is having its Annual Economic Forum October 9, 2013. There will be a report from the Federal Reserve, Michael Bryan, who is the best speaker that we have ever had. It is open to the public at a cost of \$25 and will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 9, 2013 at LaMalfa in Mentor.

Perry Township – Mark Welch - Everything is status quo.

Lake Metroparks – Vince Urbanski – As Mark mentioned, Painesville Township Park has a sheet pile wall there that is failing. As far as ownership is concerned, we have a lease with the Painesville Township Park Board, not the Trustees of Painesville Township. There is significant failure of that wall and there are some pretty tough decisions to make. There may or may not have been some deficiencies from the beginning when it was put in, but it is failing and something has to be done or the whole hillside will start slipping. They are going to meet with John Matricardi tomorrow and looking at options. There is no easy solution and nothing cheap is going to fix it. There is actually a road and quite a bit of land between it and the building.

They also had a lease agreement with Willowick at Lakefront Lodge. Our lease expired this year and was extended for a few months. They just passed a resolution last month to extend it to the end of the year. After 20 years, the City feels they are now in a position to manage it. Lake Metroparks will redirect its resources another way. There is a parking lot on Clark Road. They had bought 140 acres in 2010 and developed some beach access with about 1,300 feet of beach. Over the last year, they added another couple hundred acres there and almost have a total of two miles of lakefront there now. There are a couple acquisitions they are working on; agreements are in place and should happen in the next twelve months. They are putting some final touches on the parking lot and an entrance road off Lane Road Extension. There is another trail going to the beach so you can actually walk from one end to the other now. You never know when it will be beach or when it will be cobble, depending on which way the wind is blowing. We probably have close to a mile there now. They expect it to be a regional draw. There is one section that is highly erodible, but it is pretty limited. There is quite a timeline before it will be done as far as development and amenities.

Chagrin River Watershed Partners – Kristen Buccier – In Eastlake, they have a finalized conceptual park plan that they have been working on for quite a few months now. It is available on their website. It went through a few revisions based on a couple public meetings they had and also steering committee meetings. Right now, they opened some dialogue with First Energy on what sort of development and what restrictions they might have because some of the park is under the power lines in the easement.

Lakeline Village – Deborah Neale - Things have been quiet in Lakeline. Although on vacation during the rainstorm, she had not a single phone call. She did appreciate the emails Mr. Boyd had sent them on that situation. She was not able to attend the conference calls, but did forward the information to Council to be used for anyone who had a question.

Mr. Boyd shared that the EMA was quite impressive and a confidence builder in knowing, if things hit the fan some day, they have a really good strategy and assets and are able to get rid of the

red political boarders. Mr. Advey had been on the conference calls and said they were very informative. They didn't have any calls either.

Ms. Neale commented that she had a second trip today with Congressman Joyce who had an annual small business conference at the Kent State branch in Ashtabula. It was interesting on how they forged relationships with the small business agencies from northeast Ohio and the number of banks that had loans. It seems like a potential for partnerships because communities can work with the Small Business Administration to leverage money to some retailers. Then you theoretically get the increased employment with the 2% tax that comes in. A win/win for everyone.

Mr. Rantala said Lake County had 106 504 loans out with \$27 million worth of loans that have been made over the years. They are trying to do 15 or 20 of them every year. The banks are willing to lend but we are not seeing enough people asking. We are out there all the time trying to generate more proposals. For our agricultural loans, we just missed the planting season and are just now getting people who need things related to the harvesting season like some seed capital before they get the proceeds from the harvest out of the crop loan capital. This program will be carried over to next year.

Mentor-on-the-Lake – Al Buescher – It is nice and quiet.

Mr. Cain had noticed a lot of people have been talking about having Congressman Joyce in the area. Have we extended our olive leaf to be working with the Ashtabula people to do a more regional approach? Mr. Boyd said David Radachy, who is now the new Director of the Lake County Planning and Community Development Office, works on an hourly basis with the Ashtabula Planning Dept. Mr. Boyd had some really good discussions with their Visitors Bureau Director and a County Commissioner on increasing collaborative efforts on marketing, tourism, etc.

Mr. Rantala stated that in a regional collaborate with Geauga County, they are in discussions where the Port may provide to them resources in terms of businesses that could use bond issuances because they do not have a port authority. We are trying to reach 405 loans into there as well. We benefit from fees associated with it, but we think it is a good regional opportunity.

Adjournment

Mr. Scruggs moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. and Mr. Urbanski seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013.